

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on December 18, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have editorially amended the specification and amended claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 20. Claims 1, 7 and 13 are the independent claims, and claims 1-27 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The specification was objected to for informalities, and has accordingly been amended. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 16 were objected to for informalities, and have accordingly been amended. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over *Shimoda et al.* (US 6,442,115 B1) in view of *Maegawa* (US 7,061,845 B2). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present application, filed January 27, 2004, is a non-provisional application claiming priority under 35 USC §119(e) from US provisional application serial number 60/442,913, filed January 28, 2003.

The provisional application was filed in the Chinese language, and a translation thereof into English is submitted herewith, along with a certification that

the translator is fluent in both the Chinese and English languages and believes the translation to be true and accurate.

The formal requirements to secure the right to priority have been met. Namely, Applicant has in a timely manner filed a claim to priority from the provisional application, having added the claim for priority into the present application by a Preliminary Amendment filed therewith.

The earliest effective date of *Maegawa* as a reference would have been March 5, 2003 under 35 USC §102(e)(2) *only* if the corresponding international application had been published *in English*, and that date would have fallen between the provisional application priority date of January 28, 2003 and the date of filing the present non-provisional application on January 27, 2004, and thus would in any case have been overcome by the priority claim. However, the international application corresponding to *Maegawa* was actually published *in Japanese* as WO 03/075264, so in fact *Maegawa* merely has an effective date under §102(e)(1) and (2) of the date of its entry into the US under 35 USC §371(c) on September 1, 2004, which is even after the filing date of the present non-provisional application. Hence, *Maegawa* was not even effective as a reference before the priority claim was asserted.

As *Maegawa* is removed as a reference, rejection of the claims over the combination of *Shimoda et al.* and *Maegawa* cannot stand. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-27 be withdrawn.

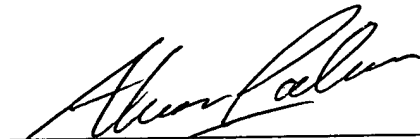
It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

March 19, 2007
Date



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